

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were pending in the above-captioned application when the present Office Action was mailed (February 7, 2006). In this response, claims 1, 14-19, 25 and 31 have been amended, claim 7 has been cancelled, and new claims 36 and 37 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 8-37 are currently pending.

In the February 7, 2006 Office Action, claims 13 and 33-35 were allowed, and the remaining claims were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

- (A) Claims 1-12 and 19-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,164,967 to Thorp ("Thorp");
- (B) Claims 13 and 33-35 are allowed; and
- (C) Claims 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on March 1, 2006 to discuss the pending claims and the applied references. During the telephone interview, the Examiner agreed that claim 1 would be allowable if amended to include the elements of claim 7. The Examiner further agreed that claims 8 and 9 would also be allowable if amended to be in independent form, and to clarify that the gripper element of these claims bears directly on at least one wing of an airborne device.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 7, and claims 8 and 9 have been rewritten to be in independent form as new claims 36 and 37, respectively. The following remarks reflect the foregoing agreement and constitute applicants' interview summary.

A. Response to the Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-12 and 19-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thorp. Claim 1 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner to include the elements of claim 7. The undersigned attorney notes that the "coupling" that now forms an element of claim 1 is distinct from the use of the word "coupled" earlier in the claim, which describes the relationship between the elongated member and the support. In light of the foregoing amendment to claim 1, the Section 102 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Independent claims 19 and 25 have been amended in a manner generally similar to that described above with reference to claim 1. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejections of claims 19 and 25 should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these claims.

Claims 20-24 depend from claim 19, and claims 26-32 depend from claim 25. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejections of these dependent claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims. Claim 31 has been amended to clarify the antecedent basis of elements of these claims, in light of the corresponding amendment to claim 25.

B. Response to the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13 and 33-35 were indicated to be allowed and have not been amended in this response.

C. Response to the Section 112 Rejections

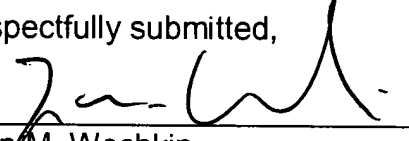
Claims 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Due to typographical errors, these claims were indicated to depend from claim 1 rather than claim 13. These typographical errors have been corrected and accordingly, the Section 112 rejections of claims 14-18 should be withdrawn.

D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner becomes aware of any additional issues that can be expediently handled by telephone, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3257.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 367618019US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
John M. Wechkin
Registration No.: 42,216
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-3257
(206) 359-4257 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant